

to industry leaders, elected officials and the business community by utilizing his rich experience and knowledge of issues involving economic development to create opportunities that benefit all.

He has received several honors including the Philip Randolph Institute's Labor Award, the Alliance for Action's coveted Eagle Award for Leadership, Construction Man of the Year by the Building Contractors Association of New Jersey, Labor Leader of the Year by American ORT, New York City Chapter, as well as Labor Leader Honoree by the Newark Catholic Archdiocese.

Throughout his career Mr. Pocino served as a member of several boards including Choose New Jersey, where he consistently advocated for New Jersey as an investment location, while also serving as a member of the board for both the New York Building Congress, the New Jersey Alliance for Action, and Commissioner to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. As well, he's served as a trustee of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, and the Laborers Health and Safety Trust.

We honor Mr. Raymond M. Pocino's commitment to workers and his service of five terms as Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the career of Raymond M. Pocino and extend the greatest appreciation for his lifetime of service to organized labor.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT L. GRAYSON

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Robert L. Grayson. Robert has been a champion of service and dedication to the great state of Mississippi and his community.

Robert L. Grayson, of Tutwiler, born on May 10, 1941, is remembered as a trailblazer. He graduated from West District High School in Tallahatchie County. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, served in Vietnam and 8 years in the Army Reserve. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Bronze, Silver Star, and the Purple Heart.

A three-decade employee with the Mississippi Department of Corrections at Parchman, MS, Mr. Grayson successfully entered the political arena in 1989 when he defeated the incumbent Ward 1 alderman in Tutwiler. He was reelected to that position in 1993. After 7 years as alderman, during which time he was elected vice mayor by his peers, in 1996 Mr. Grayson resigned to compete in a June special election for mayor. He received 53 percent of the vote in a three-man field to earn an historic first-ballot victory. As the first African American chief executive of Tutwiler, Mr. Grayson completed the remaining year of the former mayor's term, was reelected, and went on to serve 3 full terms, ending in 2009.

Mr. Grayson dedicated his life to public service, serving in multiple positions—vice chairman of the Tallahatchie Housing Board,

Council Board of Alderman of Tutwiler, Aaron E. Henry Health Center Board, and the National Conference of Black Mayors. Mr. Grayson was a founding member of the Emmett Till Memorial Commission (ETMC) of Tallahatchie County and one of the first co-chairs of that organization. In October 2007, he and fellow ETMC co-chair Betty Pearson read the "Resolution of Regret" to family members of Emmett Till during the dedication of a historical marker on the grounds of the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Robert L. Grayson for his passion and dedication to serving the Mississippi Delta and his desire to make a difference in the community, state and Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE BACKLAS ON HIS EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT TO BCTGM LOCAL 36G

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lawrence Backlas. Larry has long been a steadfast supporter of unions and labor management, and he dedicated 38 years to Milkbone Bakery and the 36G Union. I am pleased to honor a man who dedicated so much of his life to improving the Western New York workforce.

Hired in 1970, Larry began his career in packaging. This included packing and transporting goods to local bakeshops for consumers to purchase. During this time, he was a part of the safety committee ensuring that all employees were cared for and protected when they came to work. He also served on the production B&R committee.

Ultimately, it was Larry's hard work and commitment to Milkbone Bakery that allowed him to progress in his career. He soon became the steward at the bakeshop before his promotion to head shop steward for the entire bakery. In this position, he was also the lead force behind the union's training committee from 1997 to 1998. Larry would go on to become the Financial Secretary and Vice President of the General Executive Board, and he took on the role of union negotiator for many critical deals in the early 2000s.

While Larry may have retired in June of 2009, he never lost his spirit and advocacy for the BCTGM Union. Today we are honoring Larry for paying 50 years of union dues—a full 13 years more than the requirement.

Since retirement, Larry has had more time to spend with his wife (and high school sweetheart), Patricia. The two are now into their 48th year of marriage. Him and his son, Lawrence, Jr., continue to share their love of martial arts. And undoubtedly, nothing will stop Larry from enjoying the outdoors, fishing, and hunting for many years to come.

I am honored to join the BCTGM Local 36G in recognizing and congratulating Lawrence Backlas on his storied career with Milkbone Bakery and his dedication to organized labor.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE J. KEVIN CHASON

##### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished jurist who has served as the Chief Superior Court Judge of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit for the past fourteen years, The Honorable J. Kevin Chason. His retirement as Chief Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit was celebrated on October 20, 2022, at five p.m. at the United National Bank in Cairo, Georgia.

The Honorable J. Kevin Chason was born on August 15, 1962, in Grady County, Georgia, to the union of the late Judge Willard H. Chason and Carolyn H. Chason. Judge Chason began his educational journey at Georgia Southwestern College (now university) earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1984. He interned with the Georgia Supreme Court in the summer of 1985. In 1987, he would follow in his father's footsteps by earning his Juris Doctorate from the Mercer University School of Law. He would be admitted to the Superior Courts of Georgia on July 3, 1987.

After being admitted to the Superior Courts of Georgia, Kevin continued to pursue servant leadership within the legal profession as a practicing attorney before serving as Solicitor General for the State Court of Grady County from 1997 through 2008. In 2008 he ran for and was elected to the Superior Court for the South Georgia Circuit. Throughout his lifetime, Judge Chason has been revered as a steadfast mentor and has had a positive impact on his community. His stellar career on the bench has always been modeled by the motto of our great state—"Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation."

Because of his adherence to these principles, in 2017, he was appointed as Chief Judge of The South Georgia Judicial Circuit.

He also leads by example outside of the courtroom serving on the Board of Directors for the Grady Chapter of the American Heart Association, and a member of the Bainbridge College Foundation. Judge Chason also served as President and a member of the Board of Directors of Cairo Rotary Club, the Cairo and Grady County Chamber of Commerce and the American Heart Association. A man of faith, Judge Chason also serves as a member of the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church of Cairo.

It is because of Judge Chason's commitment to his craft and the betterment of his community that he has been recognized with numerous awards and distinctions to include the 1995 Grady County Young Professional of the Year and best judge in Grady County from 2018 through 2022 as selected by the readers of the Cairo Messenger. A Visionary leader, he was one of the founders of the United National Bank in Cairo, Georgia.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Judge Chason has paid his rent many times over and continues to give back to the community that molded and shaped him.

Judge Chason has served countless people and accomplished many things throughout his